

MCRPA Member Spotlight March 2022

Paul Miller



1. How long have you worked at Montgomery College, and what is your current role and department?

I have been at MC for 16 months and serve as the Professional Development Director for the Office of E-Learning, Innovation, and Teaching Excellence (ELITE).

2. How long have you been in your current profession?

I have been in education for over 20 years. I have extensive experience in STEM instruction; K-16 curriculum development; instructional design and teaching methodologies; project evaluation; inclusive professional learning/development; instructional technology integration; instructional systems development; program implementation fidelity and evaluation; and over \$34 million in federal and state grant facilitation and management.

I have worked with k-12 school systems in 28 states and presented internationally at conferences on cooperative learning models, systems theory and coaching, scaling programs with fidelity, effective leadership practices, professional development, competency-based learning, and technology integration to support teaching and learning.

I hold an Ed.D. focusing on Instructional Design for Online Teaching and Learning from Johns Hopkins University and an M.A. in Instructional Systems Development from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

3. Who inspires you?

The person that inspires me the most is Fred McFeely Rogers, also known as Mister Rogers. To quote him, "As human beings, our job in life is to help people realize how rare and valuable each one of us really is, that each of us has something that no one else has- or ever will have- something inside that is unique to all time. It's our job to encourage each other to discover that uniqueness and to provide ways of developing its expression."

4. What is your favorite thing about working at MC?

Having started at MC during the pandemic, I would say that my favorite thing about MC is the community that transcended beyond Zoom. As MC's mission states, our community is characterized by agility and relevance as it meets the dynamic challenges facing our students and community.

5. How do you define success? What does success look like?

I would define success as always doing your best to support what you believe. For me, success ensures access, equity, and opportunities for others.

6. What do you enjoy most about Montgomery College students?

Having had a student worker in Fall 2021, I would say the energy students bring to MC is amazing! Our students are energetic, innovative, and willing to help craft the community that represents their hope and dreams for the future.

7. What are you currently passionate about?

It's January, so skiing would be at the top of my list. I am an avid skier and enjoy hitting the slopes whenever I can.

8. What is one goal you hope to achieve this year?

My personal goal for the year is to find ways to support my team in their personal, professional development (PD) needs. As providers of PD, we tend to think of others before ourselves. Finding the time to grow personally is key in supporting and managing the change of the pandemic.

9. What is your favorite quote?

This is a long one but well worth the read for us as educators.

THE STUDENT IS...

The most important person on the campus.

Without students, there would be no need for the institution.

Not a cold enrollment statistic but a flesh and blood human being with feelings and emotions like our own.

Not someone to be tolerated so that we can do our thing.

They are our thing.

Not dependent on us.

Rather, we are dependent on them.

Not an interruption of our work, but the purpose of it.

We are not doing them a favor by serving them.

They are doing us a favor by giving us the opportunity to do so.

- Anonymous

10. What hobby would you get into if time and money were not an issue?

I would love to learn how to play the piano.

11. They say that everyone has a book in them. What would be the title of your book?

Never Regret, Life is What YOU Make of It

12. What do you want to be remembered for?

I would like to be remembered as a good father and person who likes to help others.

13. When people come to you for help, what do they usually want help with?

I tend to be a jack of all trades. If I can't fix something, I will figure out how to help; therefore, people tend to come for help without reservation.

14. Who has impressed you most with what they've accomplished?

Walt Disney... even if you don't like the whole Disney thing, you can't escape the wonder and excitement in a child's eyes when they see fairy tales come to life. The world needs more pixy dust.

15. What are you interested in that most people haven't heard of?

I am interested in Cockney rhyming slang. Being from the east end of London, it's a part of my culture that fascinates me.

16. What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives?

Travel to a different country. Go out of your comfort zone... eat bugs in Asia, drink beer in Europe... experience what our planet and life has to offer!

17. Who was your idol growing up?

My grandfather was my idol growing up. He was a wonderful man who I strive to be daily.

18. What profession did you want to work in when you were younger?

I have always wanted to be a teacher from as early as I can remember.

19. Where do you see yourself in 10 or 20 years?

Continuing to do what I am passionate about... helping others achieve their success.

20. Who are some of the biggest supporters in your professional career(s)?

Outside of the typical family answer, I would say Dr. Robert Slavin and Dr. Nancy Madden. Bob and Nancy have been my mentors for over 15 years. Together they have taught me how to refine and use my talents to support what I believe. With their guidance, I have had more opportunities than most will ever have in a career. From working with Sesame Street on early childhood literacy projects to redesigning programs developed by Google, my work has reached over 750,000 students in multiple countries.

21. What do you enjoy the most about MCRPA?

As a new member, I am excited to meet other professionals who share the same passions.